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P. F. Meyers,	"
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John S. Flickinger,	"

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Brendle, D. F.
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Bressler, P.
Budd, A. V.
Budd, W. J.
Campbell, D. Elliott,
Clark, Edward A.
Cox, Charles F.
Cox, Harris,
Derstein, J. O.
Ermentrout, John S.
Findlay, Robert S.
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Flickinger, J. S.
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Giesy, Samuel,
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Good, James F.
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Hassler, Jacob,
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Heisler, D. Y.
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1840.

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1841.

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1842.

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1843.

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Shannon, Hon. Wilson, "
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Stockton, Rev. T. H. Pa.
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Webster, Hon. Daniel, Mass.

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Wiesel, D.	"
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Watson, Rev. J. C.	Pa.
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Zacharias, Rev. Dr. D.	Md.

Those marked † are deceased.

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Washington Temperance Society,
Woman as she should be,
Young Man's Companion,
" " Aid,
Youth's Friend,
Young People's Book.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY

OF THE

GOETHEAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

Both the Literary Societies of Marshall College, were formed at York, Pa., on the 19th June, 1835, by the Students of the High School and Theological Seminary of the German Reformed Church, then located at that place. They owe their origin mainly to the exertions and perseverance of the Rev. Samuel R. Fisher, then a theological student, and were formed, it would seem, not without great difficulty. Two general meetings of the Students called to carry out his plans, were unsuccessful. It was only at the third meeting, that the plan of forming two literary societies, a plan so eminently calculated to further the interests of the students in the course of their Academical Education, was adopted. The students present were separated by lot into two divisions. Those of the first division subsequently assumed the name, "*Gœthean Literary Society;*" and as they were its founders, it is proper, that their names should be here recorded. They were

Messrs.	SAMUEL R. FISHER,	MOSES KIEFFER,
	JOHN B. COX,	HENRY WILLIARD,
	DANIEL Y. HINKLE,	DANIEL MILLER,
	WM. F. COLLIFLOWER,	ISAAC H. McCAULEY,
	AMOS H. KREMER,	GEO. W. WILLIARD.

The object contemplated in the formation of this Society—and which has ever been steadily kept in view—was, as it is well expressed in the Constitution, "*the mutual improvement of its members in the exercises of Debating and Composition, in the graces of Oratory, the encouragement of Friendship, and the cultivation of Morality.*" To secure these ends, the Society has since held weekly meetings, uninterruptedly except during vacations, in which all the members have attentively attended to the duties assigned them; and their efforts have been crowned with the most abundant success. A proficiency eminently calculated to fit them for the theatre of life has been attained, and friendships have been formed, whose worth can be estimated by those only who have experienced them.

It was felt by those who founded the Society, that it was one which would exercise no inconsiderable influence in moulding the tastes, and in invigorating the powers of all who should succeed them. "In preparing the Constitution," says the Rev. Mr. Fisher, "I contemplated a regular Literary Society in full operation; for I felt persuaded that the existence of the Society about

to be formed, was not to be merely for a short period." This Constitution, variously modified since, but still substantially the same, embodies throughout the most noble spirit; and with a full body of Conventional Rules, since compiled, forms a complete system of Parliamentary practice. The name "Goethean" was adopted in compliment to the great German Poet, whose name was then in the zenith of its fame. The motto of the Society, which admirably expresses its aim and its spirit, is "Genestho Phos."

It was early felt too, that to carry out properly the idea of a Society as a means of improvement, a good *Library* was indispensable. At its second meeting accordingly a committee was appointed, which laid the foundation of that very respectable Library, which, by the untiring zeal and perseverance of its members, has been collected with a rapidity unexampled in the history of similar institutions. In three months only it numbered 307 volumes.

Six months after the formation of the Gœthean Society, the "High School" was removed from York to Mercersburg, Pa., and soon after was incorporated by an act of the Legislature under the name of "Marshall College." But few of its members were found remaining at its first organization after the transfer, and they were compelled to struggle through many difficulties, as was the College itself. During the eight years that have since elapsed, it has however, steadily advanced in importance, in stability, and in usefulness, and is associated with the most pleasing recollections of many who have enjoyed its benefits.

The Library now numbers nearly 2000 volumes, which have *mainly* been purchased by contributions from the regular members. It comprises, as will be seen from the Catalogue, many valuable and most of the standard works in the English language. Their fine appearance is generally remarked, and the enterprise of a Society which has, from its own resources, collected so handsome a library, is ever commended by strangers.

The present Roll of Regular Members contains 68 names. Some idea of the rapid increase of late, may be formed from the fact, that 17 new members were added to the list at the commencement of the present Session.

Soon after the formation of the two Societies, it was determined to have an Annual Address delivered at the close of each Summer Session by some honorary member of one or the other of the Societies, in turn. An address in behalf of the Gœthean Society, (the first in the series,) was accordingly delivered in York, by A. C. Ramsey, Esq., on the 15th September, 1835; another one in Mercersburg, by Benjamin Champneys, L. L. D., of Lancaster, in 1837; a third by Jos. R. Chandler, Esq., of Philadelphia, in 1839; a fourth by John Frost, L. L. D., of Philadelphia, in 1841; and a fifth by D. H. Riddle, D. D., of Pittsburg, in 1843.

The Anniversary of the Society is celebrated on the 28th of August, the birth day of Gœthe; and is rendered profitable and interesting to the members by a suitable Address. The first of the series was delivered by the late lamented President Rauch,—who ever took a deep interest in the prosperity

of the Society—in August, 1839, "On the Character and Poetry of Gœthe." This was followed in 1840, by one from the Rev. W. A. Good; in 1841, by one from the Rev. Samuel R. Fisher; in 1842, by one from the Rev. Dr. Nevin; and in 1843, by one from Prof. S. W. Budd, jr.

Besides these, the Society has since 1841, held an Annual Exhibition on New-Year's Eve. The reputation of its members and their performances have, on these occasions, never failed to collect a crowded and highly interested audience. The exercises generally consist of four or five Orations, a Debate, a Poem, and a select Declamation, or a Prologue written for the occasion. By these exhibitions the members show to the public, how faithfully they acquit themselves in the pursuit of the various objects of the Society, as set forth in the Constitution.

The Society having, in a number of instances, received offers from friends of valuable contributions to a Mineralogical Cabinet and a Museum, has recently resolved upon their formation. In passing this resolution, the members felt that such a collection, under the care of the Society where it would be constantly within the reach of those who can appreciate and make good use of its benefits, and which would be continually increased to keep pace with the daily advances of science, would be admirably adapted to aid them in their collegiate studies. They felt assured, too, that all the Alumni of the Society would take the liveliest personal interest in enlarging and enriching it. The liberality of the present members has already enabled the Society to purchase a splendid Cabinet and Case consisting of 800 or 1000 choice specimens. These, together with rich contributions from different quarters, will enable the Society to exhibit to the citizens of Mercersburg and to strangers, a Cabinet of 2000 specimens, at the opening of next Summer Session.

But an appropriate and permanent place for this Cabinet, as well as for the constantly growing Library, is yet wanting. The room occupied by the weekly meetings of the Society is also inconvenient and inappropriate. Considerations like these, with the fact that Literary Societies of other Colleges have been aided by a generous public in the erection of separate Halls, emboldened the Gœthean Society to resolve, a year ago, upon a similar enterprise.

The erection of a *Hall* is a work of too great magnitude to be undertaken with a hope of success, by the Society's own unassisted efforts. The opportunity is now afforded to all its Honorary Members and other friends to lend a helping hand to the cause of Education and Science. A large amount has already been subscribed; and if those on whom special agents will call during the coming vacation, (when a general effort will be made in different parts of the country,) will respond liberally to the call, a "Gœthean Hall" will soon decorate the College grounds, and gladden the hearts of all its members and friends.

The engraved plan which accompanies this sketch, and which has been adopted by the Society, was designed and drawn by Prof. S. W. Budd, jr.

It is a plain Doric structure 55 feet by 40 feet, and will contain an ample Hall on the second floor for the weekly meetings of the Society. The rooms on the first floor are to be appropriated to the Library, Cabinet and Museum.

It should not be forgotten, that the interests of the Literary Societies, are intertwined with those of Marshall College, and that in proportion as they are built up, cherished and supported, the number of students may be expected to increase; and stability and permanence to characterize its method of Education. There is no institution in the country, that has risen more rapidly and deservedly, and that merits better the support of a discriminating public.